

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 1, 2006 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 12 and 14-19 have been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 20-27 are now pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 12 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,866,293 (hereafter "Ogata"). Claims 12 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,783,152 (hereafter "Tanase et al."). Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogata or Tanase et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,462,308. Claims 12 and 14-19 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-3, 5-8, 9-11, and 20-27.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for

such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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